

CAWS Discussion Panel Future weed research needs

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Summary Currently, weed research in Australia is uncoordinated between agricultural and natural land uses and systems, state and regional jurisdictions and over time. Much effective and beneficial weed research occurs across Australia, in New Zealand, and in the broader Australasian region, however it remains fragmented and in most cases, relatively short-term. What are Australia and Australasia's future weed research, development and extension needs for productive, urban and natural systems? What is an ideal structure for national, targeted, long term weed management research in Australia? How can we, as a weed research and broader Australasian weed management community, best organise and undertake weeds research when funding in some sectors is low and declining?

At the 19th Australasian Weeds Conference, the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (CAWS) will host an interactive session with six expert panel members, to discuss the future needs for Australian and broader Australasian weed research. The panel will comprise key leaders from Australian industry, conservation, research and government. Contributions to session questions and topics will be sourced from an online survey disseminated prior to the conference. The session will open with an introductory presentation by Dr John Virtue, Biosecurity South Australia, followed by an interactive discussion led by an independent CAWS Chair. Panel members and forum participants will openly explore weed research topics and aim to:

- Identify the main weed research needs in Australia, and in the Australasian region.

- Discuss how national, long-term weed research can most effectively be organised in Australia.
- Discuss what is most needed, beyond funding, to efficiently undertake targeted national weed research in Australia.
- Investigate a 'no fences' approach – how weed research partnerships between industry and conservation could work best, to address the overlapping needs of many land managers and systems.
- Discuss how we can best disseminate the latest weed research information to all states/territories/NRM/CMA regions in order for them to actively devise their regionally specific weed control programs.

The results of this forum will be collated, shared, and form a basis for further discussion and action towards creating effective long term, nationally coordinated weed research across Australia and the region.

Keywords Weed research, weed management, invasive species, research organisations, community, engagement, Australia, Australasia.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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